

County Line

News from the Government Offices of Lumpkin County, Georgia

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Grant to Treat Department's Chronic Growing Pains

A quick tour through the cramped Lumpkin County Health Department facility doesn't leave much to the imagination—except maybe trying to imagine how in the world the staff manages to fulfill its jumbo sized mission and help its massive number of clients in such a teeny space. That will all be changing soon, thanks to a half-million dollar Community Development Block Grant that came through in August. Together with the county's contribution of the land and a cash match of almost another half million dollars, the federal grant will make possible a brand new health department facility to be built over the next two years. The new building will be located near the new courthouse between Riley Road and Mechanicsville Road off Morrison Moore Parkway.

With every square inch of space in the existing facility remodeled, repurposed and reorganized—in some cases at the expense of client privacy and dignity—the new facility couldn't be available a day too soon, if you ask county nurse manager Wanda Bryant, RNC. Services she and her staff provide include: infant and child check-ups, immunizations and dental care, administration of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, family planning and prenatal care, cancer screenings and screenings for a host of diseases ranging from sexually transmitted diseases to AIDS/HIV to tuberculosis. And that's just the beginning. The local health department, under the umbrella of the state Department of Health and Human Services, is a major player in planning for local response to public health crises that could include anything from a flu pandemic to bioterrorism events.

Lumpkin County Health Department services are available to all Lumpkin residents, but are especially appreciated by those with low incomes and those who don't have health insurance. The costs of many services are based on income and family size. For details call 706-867-2727.



New Courthouse Report

The site selection process for a new courthouse proved to be a slow and painful one for the Lumpkin County community and its governing body as decisions about the facility's location pitted heritage against progress, sentimentality against practicality, even neighbor against neighbor. In the end, it was determined the courthouse will be built off Morrison Moore Parkway between Riley Road and Mechanicsville Road, a



flat site that once was home to several baseball fields. As the old baseball fields were dismantled over the summer, work was begun on the new fields that will replace them down the road in Yahoola Creek Park. In August, Clough Harbour & Associates LLP, serving as project coordinators, oversaw geotechnical testing on the property, which ultimately will house not only the courthouse, but a new county library and health department, as well. Pending results of that testing to investigate the soil, rock and other elements below ground, a site package will be developed to go out for bid in October or November.

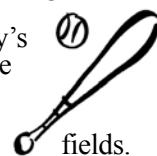
You Can Get There from Here

Hoping for a win-win situation, the Board of Commissioners has approved a contract with National Sign Plazas. The company operates a directional signage program aimed at ending the placement of hundreds of illegal "bandit" signs—usually by developers and homebuilders on weekends—on state and county rights of way. With input from the county and homebuilders, who say directional signage is critical to their ability to draw customers and sell homes, National Sign Plazas will identify key locations and install attractive county-approved kiosks, on which professional, uniform directional sign panels will be mounted. The company will administer the program on behalf of the county. Participants will pay a one-time production fee plus a monthly charge, which includes a



County 'On Base' with New Fields

While the absence of the old ball fields on Riley Road may still be unsettling as preparation is made on that property for Lumpkin County's new courthouse, a short drive down the road into Yahoola Creek Park reveals three brand new, beautiful baseball fields. Near completion with only minor details to be finished, the lighted fields have been sodded and will be ready for play in the spring. The new fields replace the three old fields lost to the courthouse project and are being paid for with about a million dollars of the \$14 million courthouse budget. When the three new replacement fields open for play, the Parks and Recreation Department will not have lost any ground, so to speak, by shutting down the Riley Road fields in the name of progress. It will gain some ground as originally planned when the \$1 million in SPLOST funds earmarked for Parks and Recreation upgrades come in within the next few years.



A Monumental Task

Before the first piece of heavy equipment was brought onto the site of the county's future courthouse on Riley Road, county manager Stan Kelley and parks and recreation director Steve Proper went out and paced the old ball field complex on foot. They made a careful inventory of every monument on and around each of the three ball fields. Then, they watched over the process of moving the monuments out of the way of impending dirt work. Finally, they made sure the memorials were relocated for safekeeping. The monuments will remain in secured storage until decisions are made about their future use.



small administrative fee to the county. In addition to real estate-oriented companies, the wayfinding signage will be available to other businesses as well as to parks, government sites and other public areas throughout the county. Businesses participating in the county's current directional signage program will receive a credit which can be applied to the new program. National Sign Plazas has city and county customers across the nation, include nine in Georgia. Dawson County has been using the company's sign plazas for the past year. For details call Scott Tripp at 770-998-9959.

Lumpkin County . . . continued from reverse side



Every Drop Counts

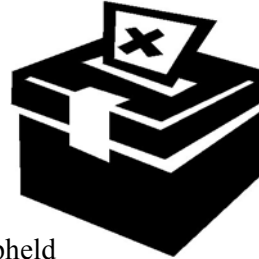
Well, it could always be worse, as they say. And quite

likely the drought *will* get worse before it gets better. That means we're all going to have to start thinking about water differently. Valuing it more...and using it less. For now, that means strictly following the requirements of the Level Three Drought Response declared by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division for outdoor watering. Under Level Three restrictions, each household has a portion of just one single day per week for outdoor watering. Those with even-numbered street addresses (and golf course fairways) may use water outdoors Saturday mornings from midnight until 10am only. Those with odd-numbered street addresses may water outdoors Sunday mornings from midnight until 10am only. Even during the allotted hours, certain water uses are prohibited, including washing vehicles, driveways, hard surfaces and buildings, using fire hydrants other than for public health and safety reasons, filling swimming pools (except for health care or structural integrity reasons) and using water for fountains and decorative ponds except when necessary to sustain aquatic life. The city of Dahlonega and the Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority are both enforcing the rules, with fines and service cut-offs carried out as necessary. For ideas on conserving water, call the Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority at 706-867-6580 or visit www.wateruseitwisely.com. And listen out for changes. The EPD could declare a more drastic Level Four Drought Response at any time.

Voting Notes

When the next county-wide election—a presidential primary accompanied by a local liquor-by-the-drink referendum—is held Feb. 5, 2008, some Lumpkin County residents will have a new polling place. The Justice Department has approved relocation of the Yahoola Precinct polling place to Fire Station #3, located at what used to be the U.S. Forest Service's Yahoola Work Center on Yahoola Road. Yahoola Precinct voters in the past cast their votes at the Lumpkin County Board of Education Learning Center. Fire Station #3 already has enjoyed an interior makeover this year, and crews recently have installed handicapped accessible features and made other adjustments required by law for the facility to serve as a polling place.

In other voting news, Georgia's much-debated photo ID law was upheld in a recent major court challenge, meaning voters *will* have to have government-issued photo IDs to vote in upcoming elections. Locally, that includes the city council election in November and the presidential primary in February. If you don't have a driver's license, probably the most common form of government-issued photo ID, getting the required ID is both easy and free at the Lumpkin County Registrar's Office in the county courthouse. For details on getting your photo ID or to learn about voter registration call 706-864-6279.



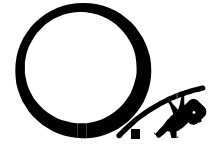
Family Day Picnic Made a Splash

It's hard to say what people enjoyed most at Lumpkin County's first Family Day Picnic at Yahoola Creek Park in September. Was it the hot dogs and burgers served up by United Community Bank employees or the homemade desserts the employees brought to share? The pleasant conversations about everything but work or playing catch and horseshoes? Maybe it was the chance to make a splash with some brave county officials and department heads at the dunk tank. Several lucky attendees went home with great door prizes, too. County manager Stan Kelley and human resources director Fran Sullens said the idea was to let Lumpkin County employees know how much they're appreciated for the jobs they do. The feedback they got from employees was so positive they plan to make the county employee Family Day Picnic an annual affair.



Lumpkin/Dawson Line Defined

After years of debate, the legal boundary line between Lumpkin and Dawson Counties has finally been defined—or make that re-defined. The Lumpkin/Dawson county line was established around the time of the Civil War. Over the years, the exact location of that survey line became blurred as people's memories faded, the lay of the land changed, incorrect surveys were filed and incorrect maps were printed. Even when the county line appeared to be wrong, few people over the decades paid to have new surveys done properly. With persistent urging to correct the situation by a resident who insisted the accepted county line was not the *real* county line, both counties at last decided to settle the issue. After all, there were important issues like local taxation and even questions about criminal venues (In which courts should cases in that 'grey' area be tried? Which of the counties' juries should residents along that ill defined border sit on?) Foregoing a governor's office plan that would have cost \$300,000, the two counties jointly commissioned a survey for less than \$17,000. When the results came in, both counties lost some land and gained some. Lumpkin and Dawson Counties's Boards of Commissioners both signed off on the findings of the new survey, which has been forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office for final review.



Working for You!

If you have a problem, question or concern involving your county government, answers and assistance are as close as your phone or computer. For contact information for county departments or commissioners, see Dept. and Contact Info., www.lumpkincounty.gov or call (706) 864-3742.

Board of Commissioners

Steve Gooch, Chairman
Dr. John Raber, District 1
Deborah Hutcheson, District 2
Clarence Stowers, District 3
Clarence Grindle, District 4

Stan Kelley
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